

and out on the further side, so terrific was the force of the Indians' bow and so closely were the victims approached. The colour of the calves is uniform, not spotted or striped, and is much the same as that of the cows. The cow is invariably smaller than the bull and lacks his sullen ferocity and massive grandeur. Both sexes possess horns. The voice of the bull is a deep sonorous bass call or growl, and in the distance, especially when several bulls were bellowing together, it is said to have resembled the roll of distant thunder.

Among many traditions still current, old settlers have one respecting the so-called "sharpening-places," *i.e.*, low rocky cliffs in the "coulees" or hollows of the prairie where the bulls were said to rub their horns in spring in preparation for the pairing period in August or September. The bulls were fierce fighters, but this sharpening of the horns is probably a myth. I have, however, several pairs of very thick old horns, which are quite worn down by rubbing upon one side of each horn. Possibly this rubbing was done when the buffalo rolled upon the ground, a habit which was constantly indulged in, partly no doubt to get rid of the flies, which annoy them just as they annoy the caribou on the barren plains of the north. The tips of the horns in old bulls, are often narrow and pointed at the tip, but very thick, clumsy, and corrugated down to the base.

All attempts to induce the buffalo to shelter in winter, or even to lie down on beds of straw in the open air have failed at Silver Heights. Straw was abundantly laid down for them in winter, but they invariably preferred some place well covered with snow, where they lay down and slept.

While the extinction of the noble buffalo may be justifiably deplored, it is questionable whether the western country could have been settled, or crops profitably grown as long as their immense herds roamed at will. Certainly man's ferocious barbarity and love of merciless slaughter would have continued so long as any wild buffalo remained to be butchered.